

CAMP MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

ISSEI MEMORIAL: LOOKING OUTWARD, UPWARD, INWARD

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ISSEI MEMORIAL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

In meeting and talking with people during the 2006 Minidoka Pilgrimage, the following points stood out with respect to the design of the Issei Memorial:

- SITE CONDITIONS

the memorial should take advantage of the existing and natural conditions on the site, including views of the surrounding landscape and camp remains, as well as local materials
- MINIMAL INTERVENTION

the memorial should make minimal interventions into the landscape, avoiding the addition of lush non-native garden components; the harsh nature of the existing site would present visitors with an understanding of what the Issei faced upon their arrival to Idaho
- DIGNITY AND OPTIMISM

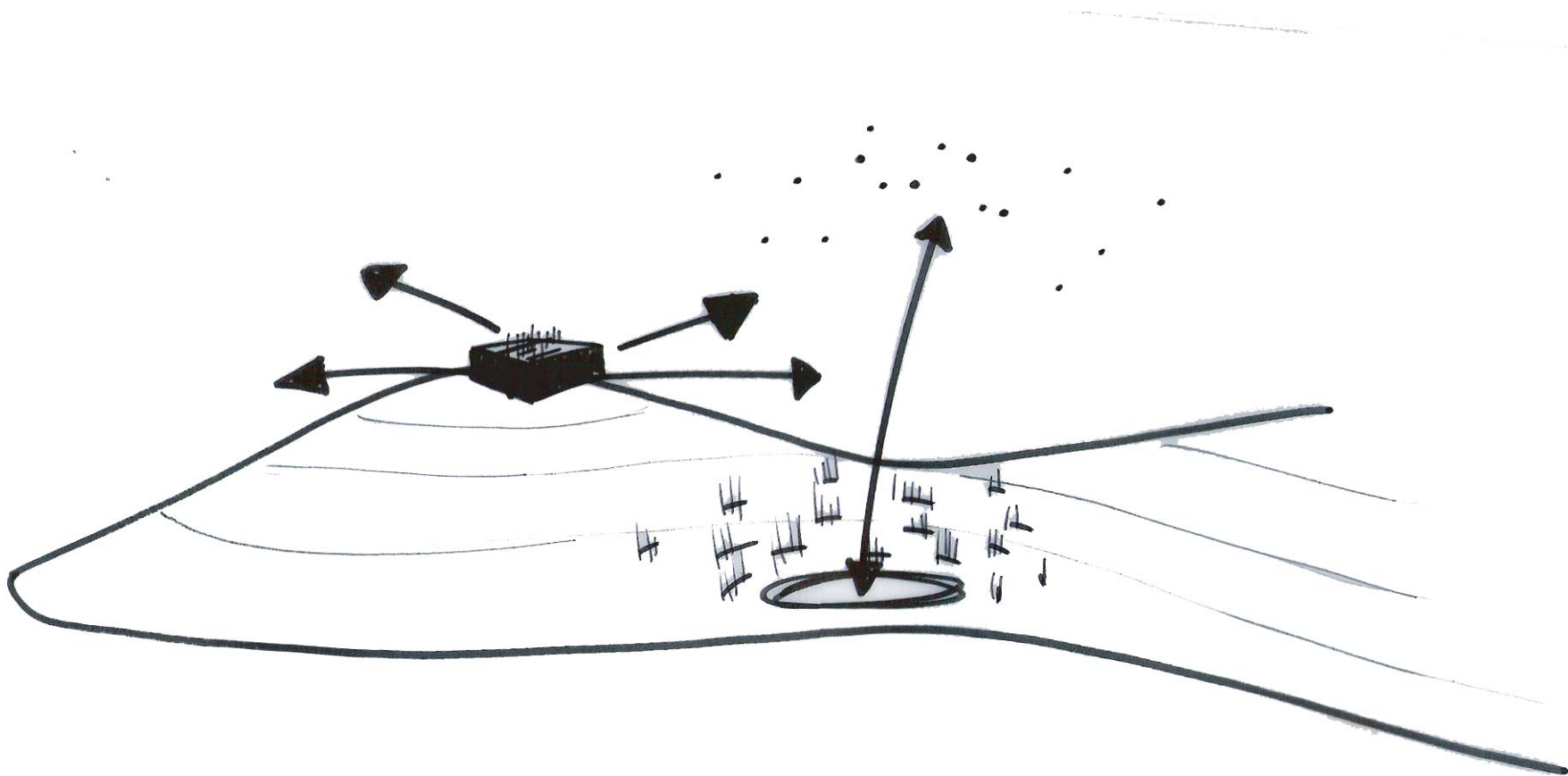
the names of the Issei should be displayed with dignity, and not in a mournful or overly dramatic fashion. the Issei are remembered in part for their stoicism and loyalty to a country that did not reciprocate the same appreciation; therefore, the memorial should not evoke feelings of bitterness, but rather should instill feelings of hope, endurance, and optimism
- BAMBOO AS A LIVING SYMBOL

bamboo may be considered in the design as a symbol of the Issei people; bamboo is a living material that will bend and move with existing conditions, such as wind, yet remain strong and erect. bamboo will also appear an element out of place in Idaho, much as the Issei experienced at Minidoka, but like bamboo, the Issei established firm roots in a country that allowed future generations to thrive
- NIGHT SKY

the night sky is an important physical feature of the sight; unlike the contemporary condition of Camp Minidoka, which has become much more fertile and lush with the development of widespread agriculture, the sky remains just as it was during WWII. the stars may also be seen as a symbol of the Issei: ever-present and connected to this place



DESIGN CONCEPT STATEMENT



I chose to develop a design that reflects the statements given by my Issei Memorial Workshop group, focusing particularly on creating a place with a sense of optimism and an appreciation for the local landscape.

The memorial should honor the memory and experiences of the Issei, respecting their sacrifices, hard work, and commitment to their family and chosen country.

This design seeks to draw the visitors’ attention to the outer physical landscape, in appreciation of the impact it had on the Issei and they on it, as well as providing opportunity for introspection and connection with the spirit of the Issei.

